

490-9-.05 Dry Needling.

Dry needling must be directly performed by a licensed physical therapist that is specifically trained and competent by virtue of education and training to perform dry needling. Online study for dry needling instruction is not considered appropriate training.

(a) Effective September 1, 2012, physical therapists must meet the following requirements in order to perform dry needling: proof of education in the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standard and at least one of the following:

1. Graduation from an entry-level physical therapy program that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and competency assessment and achievement in its curriculum; or
2. Graduation from a post-graduate credentialed residency or fellowship program of study that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and competency assessment and achievement in its curriculum; or
3. Documented successful completion of a didactic dry needling course of study consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and competency assessment and achievement in its curriculum.

(b) Provided, however, that physical therapists who have at least two years of experience in the clinical practice of dry needling as of September 1, 2012, have until the end of the current biennium on December 31, 2013, to meet the requirements in subsection (a)(1)-(3), in order to perform dry needling.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-11 and 43-33-18.